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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 265
By Bone

A RESOLUTION to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Hartsville
United Methodist Church at River Street.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to the dedicated members of those exemplary religious organizations who, through their hard work and dedication, have pieced together the enduring fabrics that comprise the grand tapestry of the United States; and

WHEREAS, through their special endeavors, the members of these organizations have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, the Hartsville United Methodist Church congregation at River Street is most assuredly one such extraordinary group of people who are deserving of praise and commendation; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, June 20, 1999, the congregation of Hartsville United Methodist Church will look back at their 50 years of positive influence on River Street, in the greater

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Hartsville community, and the many different mission points by which they have helped to carry the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, the story of the Hartsville congregation begins in the early 1800s, when in 1843, 18 members met at the just-completed one-story brick building at the corner of Church and Foxall Streets; and

WHEREAS, a second story was added to the historical building around 1850 and was used as a Lodge Hall by Union #113 Free and Accepted Masons until 1923; and

WHEREAS, Hartsville United Methodist Church's first building achieved further historical significance during the Civil War, when the church was used as a hospital ward and a nurse and personnel dormitory during the Battle of Hartsville; it also served as a courthouse and was the first meeting place for the county court of Trousdale County until a separate courthouse could be built; and

WHEREAS, the original building was sold in 1948, and a lot was bought on River Street; and

WHEREAS, on Palm Sunday, 1949, the Hartsville United Methodist Church met for the first time in the basement of its new church building at 224 River Street; the congregation began worship in the newly constructed sanctuary on Easter Sunday of the following year; and

WHEREAS, at the heart of the River Street building's architectural magnificence are two beautiful, stained glass windows from a church in Redcar, England which were installed above the altar in the Hartsville sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, members of the congregation donated funds for stained glass windows throughout the sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, since its inception over 180 years ago, the membership of the Hartsville United Methodist Church has grown to over 190 people, with Reverend Norman F. Weber currently filling the prominent position of pulpit minister; and

WHEREAS, the good people who comprise the membership of the church's congregation personify Paul's words in I Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"; and

WHEREAS, the Hartsville United Methodist Church is truly one of the great religious organizations and catalysts for positive, spiritual change in our state and nation, and the members of this fine congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the River Street location of Hartsville United Methodist Church, salute the congregation's meritorious service to the community, and wish the devoted members of the congregation the best in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.